

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Amendments to Claims

Claim 1 has been re-written to include the limitations of original claims 5 and 6.

Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than claim 5, and to be consistent with the amendments to claim 1.

Claim 7 has been re-written in independent form as new claim 12 to include the limitations of claims 1 and 5, from which claim 7 originally depended.

Claims 13-19 correspond to original claims 2-4 and 8-11, but depend from new independent claim 12.

2. Rejection of Claims 1-5 and 8-11 Under 35 USC §103(a)

This rejection has been rendered moot by the inclusion, in independent claims 1 and 12, of the subject matter of original claims 6 and 7. Claims 6 and 7 were indicated as allowable in item 4 on page 4 of the Official Action.

Having thus overcome the sole rejection made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejection and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Ser. No. 10/632,924

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin E. Urcia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

By: BENJAMIN E. URCIA
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